

**Decision Record
for
Hand Pile Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction
EA #OR-118-03-026**

I. Decision: It is my decision to implement alternative 2, with its project design features, analyzed within the Hand Pile Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction environmental assessment (EA #OR-118-03-026).

Treatment activities include burning existing hand piles created from pre-commercial thinning slash in the Glendale Resource Area, Medford Bureau of Land Management. Hand piles are contained in 9 units totaling approximately 251 acres and will be treated the fall/winter of 2003 after significant rainfall has occurred. These units are scattered throughout the Glendale Resource Area and specific unit locations are identified on maps in the Appendix of the EA. The EA is available at the Medford BLM District Office and website (www.or.blm.gov/Medford/planning).

The public was notified of the Hand Pile Burning for Fuels Reduction environmental assessment through the Grants Pass Daily Courier newspaper. No comments have been received from the public.

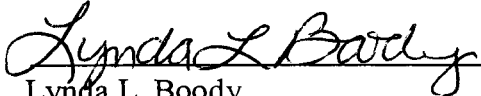
II. Rationale: This action meets the purpose and need of the proposal and reduces the fire hazard of existing created fuels. Reduction in fuel load would decrease wild land fire intensity, flame length and rate of spread if a wildfire occurs. Fire suppression forces would have more time to detect and respond to a slower moving fire. Project design features included in the EA adequately protect environmental resources and minimize the risk of adverse effects which might result from implementing the action.

The No-Action Alternative was not selected because it did not meet the identified purpose and need of reducing wild fire fuel levels in the area. This decision is consistent with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (1994), the *Record of Decision for the Medford District Bureau of Land Management* (1995), and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2001). The Proposed Action is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy described in the RMP.

The following critical elements of the human environment have been analyzed in the EA and will not be significantly affected by this project: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, historical or cultural resources, Native American religious sites, prime or unique farmlands, flood plains, threatened or endangered species, known hazardous waste areas, water quality, wetlands, riparian zones, invasive species, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, environmental justice and energy development, production or distribution.

Notice of this decision will appear in the Grants Pass Daily Courier newspaper. The decision will also be posted on the Medford District web site <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/>.

In accordance with the regulations contained in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 5003, a written protest may be filed in the Glendale Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, 97504 within 15 days from publication of this decision in the newspaper. The protest must contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.


Lynda L. Boody
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

11/17/03
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for the
Hand Pile Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction
EA #OR-118-02-026

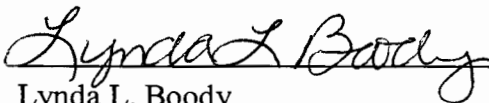
The Hand Pile Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction environmental assessment (EA #OR-118-03-026) can be obtained at the Medford District Office or on the Medford BLM internet site:
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/>.

The specific units and areas that will be treated, identified under Alternative 2, are scattered throughout the Glendale Resource Area and identified on unit maps in the Appendix of the EA. The public notice of availability of this FONSI is provided through the Grants Pass Daily Courier and Medford BLM internet site.

The following critical elements will not be adversely affected by this project and have been analyzed in the EA: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern, Native American religious sites, prime or unique farmlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, known hazardous waste areas, water quality, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers and wilderness, environmental justice and energy development, production or distribution. All surveys for Survey and Manage animal and plant species have been completed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion for pre-commercial thinning and burning activities (B.O. 1-7-96-F-392) on October 1996 that extends to FY 2005. I have determined that there is "No Effect" to threatened and endangered fish species and informal or formal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is not required.

FONSI DETERMINATION

Based on the effects discussed in the Hand Pile Burning for Hazard Fuel Reduction environmental assessment (EA), Alternative 2, which I have selected, will not have significant effect on the human environment. Effects will not be beyond those already fully described in the Final Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (1994). For this reason, no environmental impact statement needs to be prepared.


Lynda L. Boody
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

11/17/03
Date